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FROM : Information Control, OSO.  
COUNTRY : Czechoslovakia.  
SUBJECT : Civil Security in Czechoslovakia.  
DATE OF INFORMATION: June 1947

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#### 1. SNS (Sbor Národní Bezpečnosti)

The SNS is the uniformed police of Czechoslovakia, and its functions are the normal functions of any uniformed police. It takes no part in intelligence work except in so far as it carries out the arrests of persons indicated to it by the StB, the ZOB, and in some cases, the OBE.

It forms the 5th Department of the Ministry of Interior in Prague, and is under the command of Lt. Colonel Oldřich KRISTOV who was appointed to the post in December 1945, and who is said to be a fanatical Communist.

Although the majority of the younger members of the SNS are probably Communists, the force also includes a fair proportion of older professional policemen who served under the first Republic and have no strong political affiliations.

On 21 May 1947, the National Security Council approved a Government proposal for re-organizing the SNS along military lines. In this connection it has been observed that certain detachments are already heavily armed with tommy guns and have adopted the Russian manner of marching in very close formation.

The SNS now includes a detachment of Flying Police, established by a decree of the Ministry of Interior on 25 March 1946. This detachment is under the command of Lt. Colonel WEISS, who, as a Squadron Leader, was one of the early commanding officers of No. 510 (Czech) Squadron at Fratton in 1942. Members of the Flying Police undergo their flying training at Ruzyn Airport in Fieseler Storch aircraft.

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The StB in Slovakia comes under one of the departments of the Slovak Trusteeship of the Interior. It is not known to what extent it is independent of the Ministry of Interior in Prague.

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2. ZOB (Zemski Odbor Bezpečnosti)

The ZOB was established shortly after the liberation of Prague and was (and remains) under the direct control of the Zemské Národní Výbor (the Regional National Council) of Bohemia. It is not directly connected with the Ministry of Interior and its activities do not extend beyond Bohemia itself.

The main function of the ZOB is to inquire into the activities of collaborators with the Germans and other persons suspected of being politically unreliable. The results of these investigations have not been very satisfactory and have been largely obtained by methods of private denunciation and petty persecution.

It has been reported that since the country is settling down to normal peace time conditions, continued existence of the ZOB will no longer be necessary and it will shortly be absorbed into the StB.